



Newsletter of the Manchester Wildlife Trust

The Magpie

Number 17

Summer 1990

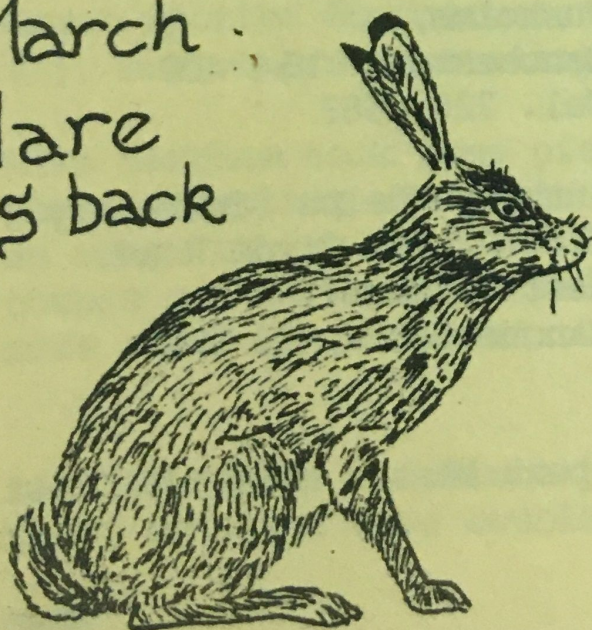
Wildflower Transplant

What a Waste

Longsight Lane Wood

Dawn Chorus Day

March
Hare
is back



Planning Matters

Events List

and more ➡

Editorial

Editor, Ian Brown 437 7040

Yes, March Hare is back! After his being sacked in the spring for, we thought, being a little too satirical over Business Parks, he took us to an Industrial Tribunal and won compensation for unfair dismissal. As we couldn't afford the fine we decided that he should be reinstated and as you will see he's at it again. March Hare features on the front cover and if you turn to "Planning Matters" you will realise why.

Well, there is plenty going on in Urban Wildlife Conservation. So much so that those of us who are most involved with the activities of the Trust sometimes wonder if we'll be able to keep our noses in front. Though things are a little hectic, it's most enjoyable and there are occasions when we wonder if we are having all the fun and some members are missing out. So if you want to join in, why not come to one of our meetings or events and find out how you can enjoy being out and about in the urban countryside. A telephone call to one of our contacts will give you the latest news about what is going on. Some of the reports in this newsletter will give you an idea of what you may have missed and the events list will tell you what is to come. However, because Magpie is only published once per quarter, events come up for which we are not able to give notice. So if you do not want to miss out, get in touch. //

CONTACTS

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Anthony Phelps (Secretary),
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DID YOU KNOW - 99% of Lancashire peat mosses have been lost since 1850. (See What a Waste) //

DAWN CHORUS DAY - 6th MAY 1990

by Anthony Phelps

The day started for me at 2.30 am with a walk along the Mersey River to Priory Gardens. It was very cold along the river, so I was glad to have a Tracker Cereal Bar T-shirt (part of the sponsorship from Mars, consisting of a £50 cheque, 10 T-shirts and a box of 32 Tracker bars) to change into when I arrived at the car park. Ian Brown was there with a local resident. We had advertised the event in the Sale and Altrincham Messenger, and had had two telephone enquiries. However, of the two locals who raised the total number attending this event to nine, neither had telephoned; one having seen the advertisement, and another had been told of it by a friend.

The dawn seemed ages coming, but soon the first songs were heard, and also the shadowy glimpses of Swallows feeding over the hedge. Amongst the most noticeable sounds of the morning were the farm dog nearby, and a horse kicking a bucket (not the bucket!), who appeared to have taken the job of cockerel!

When it became a little lighter, we set off, led by Ian McGeorge, who knew of a good site to hear some Blackcaps and Whitethroats, and we were not to be denied. I've not heard so many of them in one small area before, it's lovely to see their numbers have risen again, following their population crash a few years ago.

Back at the car park, the technical amongst us got various items of heating equipment working, and soon the smell of breakfast (almost) took over from the birds - cereals, fruit juice, egg and/or bacon butties, tea/coffee, jam/marmalade and, of course, Tracker bars. All this was interrupted by a Great Spotted Woodpecker, also having breakfast, which I missed (!), but others just managed to glimpse.

Mike Garnham took some pictures (also of himself - he seemed to have forgotten he's got a flash!), carefully posed to include as many Tracker bars and T-shirts as possible! We'll send a couple off to Mars Tracker, with a letter of thanks, later. We made about £3 profit on the food thanks to the sponsorship. //

DID YOU KNOW - Since the introduction of pesticides, insect pests on crops have doubled. //

WILDFLOWER TRANSPLANT

by Ian Brown

The Manchester Wildlife Trust has attempted the impossible, and we hope that we have succeeded. What we have done is to move a meadow from beside the Airport motorway spur, into Painswick Park. Now this may sound a bit daft but the object of the exercise was to save the Common Spotted and Southern Marsh Orchids (and 112 other species of wild plants) from the jaws of the bulldozer, when the access road to the new airport terminal is built.

This madness all started at the Ringway Public Inquiry in 1985, when developers wanted to build industrial units on the open land between Woodhouse Park and the Airport. A witness for the developers called the area "a derelict wasteland". We knew better than that and were proved right when, shortly after the inquiry, the meadow was given special wildlife status as a Grade A Site of Biological Importance. So we thought it would be a waste merely to let this rich variety of wildflowers disappear under a load of tarmac and decided that they should be transplanted to a safe place, which would not be developed. We hope Painswick Park is that safe place, where the wildflowers can be enjoyed by future generations of people and wildlife. Also, being on the edge of the urban area, it would be a superb location to serve as an educational resource for Wythenshawe schools and local residents.

None of the plants on the meadow are particularly rare; in fact most are common and many would be regarded, by some people, as weeds if they were to grow in a garden. The importance of the area is in the variety of species which in turn will support a rich diversity of insects, such as bees and butterflies.

Back in autumn 1988 we approached the City Recreation Services with our idea and they were most interested and we have been working hard together, since then, to bring the operation to a successful conclusion. Wildflowers were marked out on the site and plotted onto a map, so that they could be found at any time of the year. Part of Painswick Park was landscaped, by the Council, ready to receive the plants and many other jobs were done to help ensure the Transplant should go smoothly.

After all this preparation work we were ready for the big event and this came to pass in the first week of April. I started on



SNEEZEWORT

the Tuesday re-marking some of the wildflower plots. Alongside me was a team of Council workers with a machine digging out turves and stripping topsoil, and tractors with trailers moving the result into Painswick Park. A veritable mountain of earth resulted, which gave the impression of an impossible task ahead. However, come the Friday and some school children, other volunteers and Council workers arrived and proceeded to lay out the turves on their new home and the impossible began to look like the probable. On Saturday and Sunday more volunteers came along and work continued with individual plants being dug out and transferred to the park, and by the end of the last day the new site had taken on the look of the meadow it was to replace. Many thanks to all the volunteers, the Council and the Airport, who provided a Land Rover to transport plants at the weekend, lunch on Saturday and £100 sponsorship to cover our expenses. Since the Transplant many of the flowers have bloomed and it looks as if our endeavours will be blessed with success, especially as there has been just enough rain to ensure the survival of the plants.

At the beginning I said that we had moved a meadow. Perhaps a slight exaggeration and if you visited the area now, looking at its superb best as it does, you would hardly know we had been there. More plants have yet to be moved (many more!) and to this end we are having another Wildflower Transplant, which will take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday the 27th, 28th and 29th of July. So just one last effort; the road building starts in the autumn. We have transport for the Friday but if there is anyone with a van/pick-up/Land Rover or similar, who would be willing to donate its use on Saturday and or Sunday, please contact me; it would be much appreciated.

At a time when there is so much environmental damage, on a local, national and global scale, we feel that something which will improve the local environment must be good news. //

For those interested, there will be a walk, around the general area of the Wildflower Transplant. This will take place on Tuesday the 17th of July, starting from Wythenshawe Library at 7 p.m. But the best time to go is now. Ring Ian Brown for details. //

Longsight Lane Wood

by Anthony Phelps

I keep hearing about the continuing destruction of woodland sites, apparently with no heed to the law, and such things as felling licences, and the feelings of local residents. It sometimes seems that if you have a bulldozer and a chainsaw, you can destroy a woodland in a couple of hours and, once done, the law, which ought to be brought to force, sometimes takes a back seat. The perpetrator of the act seems to get away with a small fine, tiny in relation to the value of the cleared land (now no longer classed as woodland), and, to add insult to injury, can even become the recipient of a building award! I hope this poem does not turn out to be a prophesy of things to come, or all we will be able to admire will be housing estates with plastic sentries to guard them!

EPITAPH FOR CHEADLE HULME

Tell me old man, is it true,
That things called trees existed here?
In school they said that trees once grew,
All over lands both far and near.

With arms that tried to reach the sky,
And roots that clung to earth below,
A home for scores of living things;
Tell me old man - was it so?

They say that every year anew
Their blossom spoke of life to come,
And with its passing fruits, then grew
A bounty for both beast and man.

Tell me old man if it is true
That things called trees existed here?
Then could you not have saved a few?
For us who have not known their cheer.

Please tell me old man - why the tear?

(Poem by B W Hallworth, first appeared in the Spring/Summer '90 edition of the Stockport RSPB Members Group Newsletter. Originally titled "2000 - A Question?" reprinted with permission) //

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MANCHESTER WILDLIFE TRUST AWARD SCHEME

We are to give awards for the Good, the Bad and the Ridiculous schemes which affect our urban environment.

The March Hare "Mad" Award

We have just one nomination for this award. This is for the planning application by Joule Estates & British Rail Property Board for a multi-storey car park (1000 cars) at Heald Green Station. The reason given was, "for the use of Manchester Airport passengers travelling by car, completing their journey to the airport terminal by rail link". Those at all familiar with the area will know that Heald Green Station is not much more than one mile from the airport and that most motorists travelling to the proposed car park would have to pass the entrance to the airport and then go back by train! It would be logical to assume that the purpose of an airport rail link was to encourage people to journey from some distance, to the airport, by train, to help relieve road congestion; not as an excuse for off airport parking.

The 'Des Poiler' Award for Environmental Damage

We have two nominations for this category. The first one goes to John Harrisson (Builder), of Bramhall, for the wanton destruction of Longsight Lane Wood. This was the last wood, of a reasonable size, remaining in Cheadle Hulme. The second nomination goes to British Telecom for the destruction of a fine old hawthorn hedgerow, south of Simonsway, when a slight relocation of the building could have avoided this. (See winter Magpie)

We would also like to make an award for environmental improvement. This could be more difficult and we are looking for a suitable name for the award. (Any suggestions?) One possible nomination is for Peel Estates. They say that they will replace functional but unaesthetic barns, where swallows nest, with a purpose built nesting site when a redundant farm in Worsley is re-developed.

If you have any nominations for any of the categories or ideas for suitable, cheap and cheerful prizes, please let the editor know by the 1st of February, 1991. More about this award scheme in the next Magpie. //

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What a Waste

Why Waste Waste

by Ian Brown

Have you ever been out walking in the countryside or on your local open space and noticed, lying in a ditch, or stuffed under a hedge, a black plastic bag full of? Well if you are curious enough to look you may find the bag to be stuffed full of garden waste(?), such as grass cuttings and hedge clippings. It's unsightly and is, to say the least, a thoughtless act on behalf of the person who dumped the bag. You might think that it would be better to have emptied the bag and scattered the contents, but this would also be a thoughtless act. The place chosen for dumping, might support the growth of plants which would have difficulty surviving the enriched conditions created and they could be overcome by coarse plants such as nettles and docks, which thrive on nutrient rich soils. To put it bluntly, rare plants might be killed and the nature of the habitat could be changed, to the detriment of wildlife in general.

So why do it? To spoil the countryside by such thoughtlessness. What a waste! Garden rubbish can be quite easily be composted; grass cuttings, leaves; even coarser vegetation can be chopped up. Add to this, kitchen waste; fruit and vegetable peelings, tea leaves, left over food, the lot; in fact anything organic.

But why go to all this trouble? There are several good reasons. It will save fuel. What? you say. Yes, if you have your garden refuse taken away by the council, fuel is used to transport it to the tip. If you burn garden waste, it will add to the atmosphere, carbon dioxide, a "Greenhouse gas". There will be a saving in landfill sites. To get rid of rubbish, much of it has to be tipped on open countryside and in the process contributing to the destruction of wildlife habitats. It will cut down on dangerous methane generation in landfill sites. But most of all if you use your own compost instead of buying peat, you will be helping to save our rapidly disappearing peat bogs, habitats which support some of our rarest wildlife species.

So don't buy peat, use your own compost as a soil conditioner; put back onto your land that which your plants take out, with a little added sun! And you can use compost (suitably sterilized) for seed germination and growing cuttings. A more nutrient rich

compost may be produced by using one of the recently designed bins; one problem with the old compost heap is that much of the nutrient content is leached away into the soil.

It might seem that if one individual made use of their own compost the advantage to be gained would be inconsequential. But if everyone did it, instead of using peat, think what a difference it would make. Of course, it would not please such companies as Fisons. But what I say is, "Blow Fison", don't waste waste, compost it!

//

If any of our readers would like to express their feelings on a subject which could go under the heading of "What a Waste" then please put it down on paper and send it to the editor. It might be on the subject of recycling, road building destroying wildlife habitats or similar; let us know.

//

DID YOU KNOW - You can sterilize compost in a microwave - 2lbs. of compost in a microwave proof container for 7 minutes at the maximum setting.

//

READER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank some members of the Wildlife Trust that I called upon to identify some impressive looking caterpillars in my backyard.

As a result I was able to confidently take them into class, feed them their required vegetation and, with a class of enthusiastic 7 & 8 year olds, witness the emergence of the garden tiger moths, who proceeded to "meet" and lay eggs, thus completing the full life cycle.

Thanks to the trouble taken by Lucy Kelly, the children gained not only the knowledge of the moth's life cycle but also a little more care and wonder for nature they would not have encountered otherwise.

I hope more caterpillars visit next year.

Claire Thomas

Rusholme

DID YOU KNOW - 100 years ago the Swedish Scientist Araneus warned that burning coal could lead to global warming.

//

Friends of Parrs Wood

AN UPDATE

by our Educational Correspondent

Most of you will, by now, have heard about the proposed closure of the Parrs Wood Rural Studies Centre by the Manchester City Council. You will also have heard that the Friends of Parrs Wood are doing their utmost to ensure that this fine establishment continues to serve the environmental educational needs of the City. The Friends now have over 1000 members, including "Pat and Tony Archer". They have been set the "impossible" deadline, of the 31st of August, to find realistic funding for the continued running of the Centre. Thanks to the extremely hard work put in, by the committee and others, there are now signs that the deadline might be within reach.

The Countryside Commission are funding an immediate feasibility study to look at all possible environmental uses. At least one multinational and two charitable trusts are interested in funding specific aspects of the Centre's work. For example, a teaching post and substantial provision for the disabled. Staff from one of the trusts (well known in nature conservation) were astounded, both at the Centre's potential, and that Manchester City would consider letting such a fine facility go, saying that it is an environmental asset (one of the best they had seen) that no industrial conurbation, the size of Manchester, should lose.

We would entirely agree with that and certainly hope that Parrs Wood Rural Studies Centre will continue to provide an environmental education for many a future generation, not just for children but also for adults. If we don't give people the opportunity to learn about, and appreciate, the natural world, what chance is there for the well being of the local and global environment?

We wish the Friends well and will give them all the support we can. If you would like to help, in however small or large a way, why not make a start by going to the Parrs Wood Open Weekend on Saturday and Sunday the 7th and 8th of July. There will be plenty of activities in which you can take part, with tours of the site, morris dancing and music, so it should be a most enjoyable experience. Car parking will be off site but there

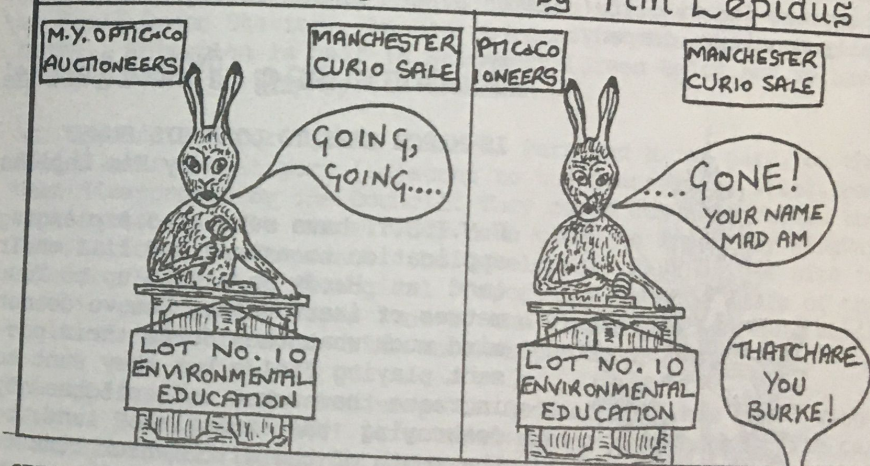
will be a few spaces in Parrs Wood High School and Tesco may allow their car park to be used on Sunday. Why not be really environmentally friendly and travel by public transport (or walk). There are good buses from most parts and rail users (Saturday only) will find East Didsbury Station conveniently situated, on the other side of Kingsway. If you require further information on the Open Weekend or the Friends of Parrs Wood, contact Unity Kelly (Chair) on 226 4583.

Be there, give your support and perhaps you will be able to say that you played some part in helping to keep open this superb environmental establishment for the use of future generations of Mancunians.

//

March Hare

by Tim Lepidus



ODDS & ENDS

Reports from Members

Water, water, everywhere - The National Rivers Authority has bulldozed an island on the River Goyt. They say that this was for flood control purposes. Is this destruction of wildlife habitats contrary to policies of the Etherow/Goyt Local Plan? Having investigated the area we could not visualise what could possibly be flooded, except for riverside meadows. We are looking into this problem, and flooding on Chorlton Brook, between Platt Fields and Hough End and there will hopefully be a report in the next Magpie, by Basil Faucet, our expert on High Speed Drains.

.....continued over

Wildflower Ways - Various reports of wildflower sightings have come in. The prize goes to the **Henbane**, spotted in Gt. Western Street, Rusholme. **White Campion** and **Bladder Campion** were seen together on a railway embankment by Timperley Brook, Broadheath and a magnificent swathe of **Lady's Smock** next to a pile of fly tipping on the adjacent playing fields. There have been reports of **Giant Hogweed** in various locations. With the assistance of a Cheshire Trust member we have at last located the **Blue Fleabane** on the Transplant field, near the Airport. Any reports of unusual or interesting plants (or animals) will be welcome. Inform your nearest contact.

UGH! - Have you seen the Siemen's Development, on Nell Lane. Never mind the hideous architecture what about the landscaping. A single straight row of evenly spaced Norway Maples. That will be great for wildlife! Siemen's seem like a really environmentally sensitive company. //

Planning Matters

IS MARCH HARE TO LOSE HIS HOME?

by Tim Lepidus

U.M.I.S.T. have submitted a planning application to extend and fill their land at Hardy Farm with up to four metres of inert waste. Now we do not mind much what they do to their present playing fields but they want to increase the number of pitches by destroying the triangle of land, to the south of the ditch which runs to the Mersey at Jackson's Boat. Maybe you know this as "Motorcycle Field", but March Hare calls it home. And he lives there with Royal Fern, Orchids and Spaghnum Moss and about 80 other species of wild plants. Butterflies, Moths and Birds abound, in fact the field is so good for wildlife that some really nice people from a place called the Countryside Unit have decided that it should be a Grade "B" Site of Biological Importance. March



ROYAL FERN

Hare thinks it's Grade "A", but then he lives there. He says, "Those spacemen with two wheels instead of legs will never get me." To fill in this field and destroy all that wildlife would be wanton vandalism, never mind it being contrary to the Mersey Valley Local Plan (Policies L1, L3, L4 & L5). It's not too late to write with your objections to the plan. (Write to Mr. Ted Kitchen, City Planning Officer, Planning Department, PO Box 488 Town Hall, Manchester. M60 2JT) This is one plan we must stop. There are few enough places for wildlife, in Manchester, without adding March Hare to the list of the homeless. This application is for an increase in the number of playing pitches. We wonder, is it possible that recent losses of playing fields to "Business Parks" has anything to do with this?

OTHER MATTERS - You will be pleased to hear that Manchester City Council have refused the plan for a multi-storey car park at Heald Green Station. We had objected to this in very strong terms. This plan is half in Stockport (Green Belt) but we have not yet heard of Stockport's decision.

An application for both a Business Park and a car park, on the fields near the airport (adjacent to the Transplant site), has been disapproved by the Council. They can't actually refuse the application, as it has already been taken to appeal by Ringway International Developments, the developers. Part of the site is a Grade "A" Site of Biological Importance and the whole of the area is protected as open land by the Ringway Local Plan, until at least 1995. It looks like another public inquiry!

The application for a ski slope in Reddish Vale has been withdrawn. Hurray for that! It sounded pretty horrendous, with car parking and much building. There could be another application. We must stop this sort of thing. On a national scale, the good news is that the skiing development at Lurchers Gully (A SSSI) has been refused. Well done Mr. Rifkind. //

DID YOU KNOW - At the height of the last ice age the average global temperature was 4deg.C below the present average. 90% of fresh water was held in massive ice caps covering 18m square miles and sea level was 300ft below present shore line. Today, 75% of fresh water is held in the ice caps covering 5.8m square miles. What would happen if the average global temperature was 4deg.C above present? (Funny weather we've had recently - Ed)

Reader Writes

We have a letter from a reader in reply to part of the article "Business Parks" by Councillor Arnold Spencer.

Dear Sir,

I understand the proposal for the Apollo site is for a MacDonalds drive-in take away. As car vehicles churn out carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide (in the case of the diesel by 30x the amount as the petrol engine), cancer producing hydrocarbons and lead, it would be interesting to know on what grounds Policy EN 10 of the Greater Manchester Structure Plan has been met for as far as I am concerned food and toxic chemicals don't mix! Perhaps Manchester City Council has the same attitude towards the Structure Plan as Stockport Council does, i.e. ignore it intoto, which makes the formulation of the plan a cosmetic and financially wasteful and unnecessary process.

We would be much better off if we still had the Metropolitan County Council regarding planning matters. Of that I am sure and nobody, as yet, has convinced me otherwise.

John Anthony Turner

Bredbury

MANCHESTER WILDLIFE TRUST T-SHIRTS/SWEATSHIRTS.

The order for T-shirts/sweatshirts was confirmed with the Sussex T-shirt Company on Monday 21st May 1990, and they were delivered on Wednesday the 13th of June.

As I now have these, arrangements will be made to get them to the members who ordered them, although, as the Trust is making nothing out of this order, and postage is expensive, passing these items to members will be done at meetings and work events. Therefore, if you have an item on order, please contact your Secretary, and let me know how to get your goods to you. The sooner we meet, the sooner you can be the envy of your friends! The garments are excellent and very eye-catching, so if there are any members who wish to be finely appparelled in the Trust's very own T-shirt or Sweat Shirt phone me (829 5457 daytime) and book your order.

Anthony Phelps

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The world is too much with us, late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers:

Little we see in Nature that is ours;

We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!

This sea that bares her bosom to the moon;

The winds that will be howling at all hours,

And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;

For this, for everything, we are out of tune;

It moves us not. - Great God! I'd rather be

A pagan suckled in a creed outworn;

So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,

Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;

Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;

Or hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn.

William Wordsworth

EVENTS - You should by now have read the Events List. Please try to attend as many events as you possible can. We have gone to a lot of trouble organising these activities and what can be hard work for a few can be great fun for many. We have booked no work days for Withington Hospital Woodland, as so few have turned out for this event. This being the case, in future, work days at this venue will be organised on a casual basis. If you wish to attend, please telephone one of the contacts. //

DO YOU KNOW ANY DID YOU KNOWS - There are a few of these items in this issue of Magpie. They make excellent page end fillers. If you know any short pithy items which will be of interest to our readers, please send them to the editor. The shorter they are, the more likely that they will be included. Unfortunately, unlike the Readers Digest, we are not in a position to pay for this service, but you will have the satisfaction of seeing your contribution in print. As usual, any articles will be welcome.

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Useful Contacts

Bats CCT Bat Group - 0606 781868 (day)
 LTNC Bat Group - Steve Garland - 0204 22311 (day)

Bees (Swarms, information etc.) Keith Taylor - 793 7335

Birds RSPB - Tony O'Neill - 962 2449

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

Sale & Altrincham - Shelagh Aston - 275 3146 (day) 928 2223
Salford & Trafford - Brian Taylor - 872 7640 (day)
Stockport - Kim Porter 0625 874729 (evenings & weekends)

Bury Wildlife & Countryside A. G. - Dave Bentley - 724 8602

Cheshire Conservation Trust (Stockport and Tameside Group)
 Julia Mottishaw (Secretary) 494 6733

Friends of the Earth - Kevin McGovern - 945 1097
Friends of the Earth - Neil Lea - 789 8880

Friends of the Mersey Valley - Ann Buckingham - 881 1814

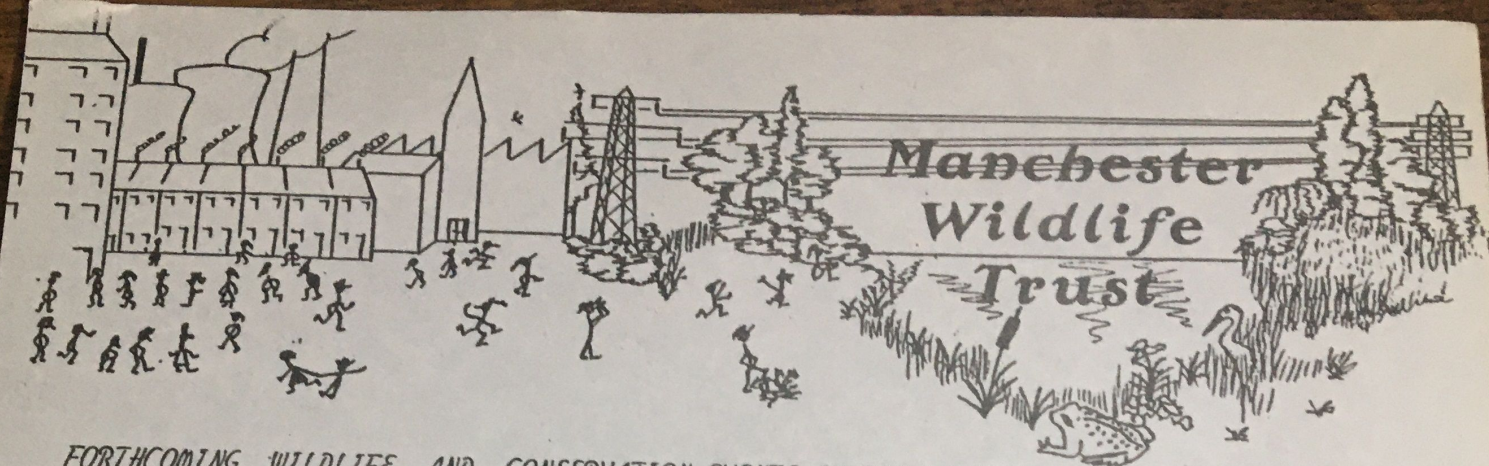
Mersey Valley Wardens - Sale 905 1100 - Chorlton 881 5639

RSNC Tony Jones (Urban Wildlife Development Officer),
 The Green, Nettleham, Lincoln. LN2 2NR

This list will help you to contact the correct organisation. Conservation groups wishing to be included on future lists - please let us know and maybe, in return, we could be similarly featured in the publications of others.

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Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that information in the "Magpie" is correct, the Trust cannot be held responsible for any mistakes in the text. Likewise, any person who undertakes any project based on information from this newsletter does so at their own risk.



FORTHCOMING WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION EVENTS IN THE MANCHESTER AREA. THOSE MARKED * NOT RUN BY THE MANCHESTER WILDLIFE TRUST. ORGANIZING BODY, CONTACT AND TELEPHONE NUMBER SHOWN WHERE POSSIBLE OR PHONE IAN BROWN 437 7040. WHY NOT PUT THIS CALENDAR ON YOUR WALL TO REMIND YOU OF WHAT IS GOING ON AND PLEASE TRY AND JOIN US. IT'S GREAT FUN

July

- | | | |
|----------|------|---|
| Saturday | 7th | Parrs Wood Open Weekend - Parrs Wood Rural Studied Centre, Parrs Wood, Didsbury. 10a.m. to 6p.m. Contact Unity Kelly 226 4583. * |
| Sunday | 8th | |
| Saturday | 14th | Hough End Clough - Mowing Hay Meadow. Meet Hough End Crescent, Mauldeth Road West. (South End of Alexandra Rd. South) From 10a.m. onward. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040. |
| Tuesday | 17th | Wildflower Walk (To Transplant Site) - Meet Wythenshawe Library at 7p.m. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040. |
| Thursday | 26th | Wildlife Trust Meeting - Committee Room 7, Town Hall Extension, Manchester. Time 7.30p.m. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040. |
| Friday | 27th | Wildflower Transplant - Painswick Park, Woodhouse Park, Wythenshawe. |
| Saturday | 28th | Meet at lay-by on Thorley Lane. (North of Motorway Bridge, O.S. Map Ref. SJ 815860) Time 10a.m. onwards. Wear wellies, old clothes and bring a spade. An unusual opportunity to save one of the country's rarest wildlife habitats. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040. |
| Sunday | 29th | |

August

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------|--|
| Thursday | 2nd | Tour of Trafford Ecology Park - A specially arranged visit for the Wildlife Trust. Meet at the Ecology Park. 7p.m. Contact Colin McCleod 873 7182. * |
| Tuesday | 7th | Pub Meeting - Parrs Wood Hotel, School Lane/Parrs Wood Road, East Didsbury. Meet 7.30p.m. onwards. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040. |
| 6th, 8th, 10th, 13th, 15th, 17th | | Operation Countryside - The nationally acclaimed environmental play-scheme is happening again! Help will be needed. Various locations. For details contact Mersey Valley Wardens 905 1100. * |
| Saturday | 25th | Celebration in the Hayfield - Old Time Hay cutting with Morris Dancing, Field Theatre, games and refreshments to celebrate the old Hay Meadow at Cow Lane, Sale Water Park. 2p.m. Contact Ian Brown. |

September

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|----------|------|--|
| Tuesday | 4th | Pub Meeting - Parrs Wood Hotel, School Lane/Parrs Wood Road, East Didsbury. Meet 7.30p.m. onwards. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040. |
| Sunday | 16th | Hough End Clough - Hay Meadow Cutting and Tidy Up. Location, Time and Contact as for Saturday 14th July. |
| Thursday | 27th | Wildlife Trust Meeting - Committee Room 7, Town Hall Extension, Manchester. Time 7.30p.m. Contact Ian Brown 437 7040. |

October

- | | | |
|-----------|------|--|
| Tuesday | 2nd | Pub Meeting - Venue, time & contact as above. |
| Sunday | 21st | One World Week - This year's theme - "Speak Up for Tomorrow's World" |
| to Sunday | 28th | More details in the next Magpie. Contact Diana Downing 740 1200. * |

